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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,125	02/18/2004	Christopher S. Johnson	400.149US02	3355
7590 10/27/2004			EXAMINER	
Leffert Jay & Polglaze, P.A. P.O. Box 581009 Minneapolis, MN 55458-1009			LE, THONG QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/781,125	JOHNSON, CHRISTOPHER S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thong Q. Le	2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-44 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on February 18, 2004.
3. Information disclosed and list on PTO 1449 was considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claim 30 recites the limitation "the mode register" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
6. Claim 31 recites the limitation "the mode register" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
7. Claims 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the mode register.

The connection of mode register in claim does not disclosed.

Claims are required to amend for clarity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

9. Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nobunaga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,510).

Regarding claims 1-37, Nobunaga et al. disclose a system (Figure 1), comprising:

a controller (200); and

a memory device (100) coupled to the controller to receive signals therefrom, and

comprising:

an array of memory cells (104) arranged in a plurality of addressable banks (bank 1, bank 2, bank 3, bank 4), each bank comprises addressable rows and columns of memory cells;

a mode register (130) ; and
address circuitry (112,115,117) coupled to the mode register to configure the addressable banks in response to a program state of the mode register.

More specifically, Nobunaga et al. disclose wherein the addressable banks can be configured as either four or eight banks (Figure 1, bank1-4), and wherein the address circuitry selectively routes address signal to either a row decoder (118) or a bank decoder in response to the mode register, and column decoder (122) as claim 9 discloses, and a logic circuit (130) as claim 12 disclose.

Regarding claims 38-44, the apparatus discussed above would perform the method in claims 38-44. More specifically, Nobunaga et al. disclose this operating a memory device (Column 10, lines 45-64).

10. Claims 16-29, 35-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zitlaw et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,468).

Regarding claim 16-29, 35-37, Zilaw et al. disclose a system, (Figure 1) comprising: a controller (201); and

a memory device (100) coupled to the controller to receive signals including an input signal therefrom, and comprising:

an array of memory cells (102) arranged in a plurality of addressable banks, each bank comprises addressable rows and columns of memory cells;

a decode circuit (116) to decode the input signal; and

an address circuitry (112) coupled to the decode circuit to configure the addressable banks in response to a program state of the input signal.


More specifically, Zilaw et al. disclose wherein the addressable banks can be configured as either four or eight banks (Figure 1, 104,106,108,110), and wherein the address circuitry selectively routes address signal to either a row decoder (Figure 1, 114) or a bank decoder (116) in response to the input signal (Figure 1), and wherein the input signal is a one-bit binary input, and wherein the input signal is a multi-bit binary input and the number of banks is configurable (Figure 1), and wherein the address circuitry comprises a multiplex circuit (Figure 4) as claim 26 disclosed.

Regarding claims 38-44, the apparatus discussed above would perform the method in claims 38-44.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David C. Nelms can be reached on 571-272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thong Q. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2818

THONG LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER